

231635

VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON

23860 Old Barrington Road
Lake Barrington, Illinois 60010-1634
(847) 381-6010 FAX: (847) 381-8557
E-mail: LakeBarrington@lakebarrington.org

PRESIDENT
Kevin C. Richardson

VIA Mail & Electronic Filing

TRUSTEES
Andrew F. Burke
Lauren D. DeJesu
Christopher D. Mitchell
David B. Raclaw
John M. Schaller
Dorothy H. Schofield

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Christopher A. Martin

VILLAGE ACCOUNTANT
Deborah E. Vernon

VILLAGE CLERK
Loretta Peterson

TREASURER
James E. Purcell

PERMIT COORDINATOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DEPUTY CLERK
Erica A. Rezula

January 6, 2012

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN - 9 2012

Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. FD35087 (Sub-No. 8)

Dear Ms. Brown,

I write to you in support of the Village of Barrington's October 14, 2011 petition seeking further Board mitigation action in mandating a grade separation at U.S. Route 14 and the EJ&E rail line in Barrington, Illinois. Lake Barrington is located northwest of Barrington and has a population of some 5,000 residents. U.S. Route 14 (also referred to as Northwest Highway) is the primary arterial used by our residents in traveling southeast toward Chicago and O'Hare International Airport. As a result, the increased traffic congestion resulting from a fourfold increase in freight trains blocking the EJ&E line's crossing with Northwest Highway will have an acute impact Lake Barrington residents.

In reviewing the petition presented by the Village of Barrington this year, it seems as though something went awry with the 2008 analysis methodology used by the Surface Transportation Board's consultant for the environmental review vis-a-vis the assessment of traffic impacts in the Barrington area. Flaws in the analysis methodology appear to have seriously underestimated the impacts on both US Route 14 and IL Route 59, thereby leaving the impression that traffic congestion arising out of the Canadian National's freight operations would be negligible.

While the initial flaws were based on projected impact assumptions, Barrington has now presented new evidence measuring traffic impacts using data gleaned from CN's 2011 actual post-transaction operations on the EJ&E through Barrington. This data confirms the earlier flaws in analysis and demonstrates that both Northwest Highway and IL Route 59 are substantially impacted and in need of meaningful and significant mitigation.

In denying Barrington any grade separation to relieve freight-induced traffic congestion, it appears that our region has been treated unfairly when one compares it to the grade separation mitigation mandated in both Aurora and Lynwood. It is particularly telling that when Barrington used consistent and accurate methodology in measuring traffic impacts at both Ogden Avenue in Aurora and U.S. Route 14 in Barrington earlier this year, the results highlighted the reality that the two crossings are similarly impacted by CN freight traffic.


Ms. Cynthia Brown
U.S. Surface Transportation Board

Page Two
January 6, 2012

For those of us living in the region, the process failure which led the Board to believe that impacts upon the two major strategic arterials which serve Barrington and its neighboring communities would not warrant grade separation relief is no longer merely an academic problem – that failure now has demonstrated real consequences in the overall livability and safety of our communities. I respectfully request that the Board closely review the evidence presented this year by the Village of Barrington and use the oversight authority it properly reserved for this transaction to mandate that Canadian National fund a grade separation at US Route 14 and the EJ&E rail line which intersects it.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of these views and please do not hesitate to be in touch should you wish further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin C. Richardson".

Kevin C. Richardson
Village President

KCR:rmh

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this 6th day of January, 2012, caused a true copy of letters from Tower Lakes, Illinois and Barrington Township, Illinois in support of Barrington's October 14, 2011 petition (STB Docket FD35087 - Sub-No 8) to be served by e-mail upon:

Cunningham, Paul A.
Harkins Cunningham LLP
1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3817

Dold, Honorable Robert
United States House Of Representatives
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Durbin, Honorable Richard J
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

Hirsh, David A
Harkins Cunningham
1700 K Street, Nw, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3817


Kirk, Honorable Mark
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Manzullo, Honorable Donald
U.S. House Of Representatives
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Roskam, Honorable Peter J.
Congress Of The United States
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1308

Streeter, Richard H.
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

Walsh, Honorable Joe
United States House Of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Suzanne M. Devane